

NATIONAL PATIENT SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Charter

Purpose

The National Patient Safety Partnership (NPSP) is chartered as a voluntary public-private partnership to improve patient safety by reducing preventable adverse events and untoward outcomes of healthcare or healthcare related processes. Such unintended consequences of healthcare result in unnecessary patient morbidity and mortality, and they occur in all healthcare delivery systems and with all financing mechanisms. Unless the underlying reasons for such occurrences are determined and shared throughout the healthcare sector, each hospital or healthcare system must itself experience the adverse event before it can re-engineer for safety. Barriers to the broad sharing of lessons learned as a result of adverse events must be addressed. Development of a national strategy to address this problem can occur when government and the private sector join together with patient and consumer advocacy groups to address the problem and the culture in which it exists. This partnership will promote that process.

Goal and Objectives

The primary goal of the NPSP is to align the essential elements - people, including patients; processes; and structures - into a strategic framework that can be applied to reduce untoward consequences of healthcare. To this end it will:

1. Review existing patient safety research and identify needs for additional investigation;
2. Identify and learn from the experience of relevant safety interventions from non-healthcare industries (e.g., aviation, highway traffic, and nuclear power);
3. Review existing patient safety databases and identify needs for a national monitoring system and barriers to creating such a system;
4. Promote individual healthcare organization commitment to patient safety improvement;
5. Promote system-wide protocols for improving patient safety;
6. Promote system-wide structure/mechanisms for timely exchange and feedback of patient safety related information;
7. Identify performance measures and benchmarks for patient safety;
8. Involve healthcare consumers, including patients, as active participants in improving patient safety and explore with them the role of consumer in promoting patient safety;
9. Develop consensus on a national agenda to enhance patient safety;
10. Advance a national position (policy) regarding patient safety and take action to facilitate its local implementation; and
11. Promote awareness and sensitivity to these issues in the education and training of health care professionals.

Organization

The NPSP is formed as a non-binding public-private partnership of the following charter organizations.

Department of Veterans Affairs;
American Hospital Association;
American Medical Association;
National Patient Safety Foundation at the AMA;
American Nurses Association;
Association of American Medical Colleges;
Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations; and,
Institute for Healthcare Improvement.

To carry out its activities, the NPSP will work collaboratively with its member organizations and others to address patient safety with an eye toward accelerating progress toward nationwide improvement in American healthcare systems. It will neither promote nor endorse particular products nor services to improve patient safety of its members or others.

The NPSP will organize itself to achieve the goals it has established.

Process

To achieve the goals and objectives of this collaboration, the NPSP will conduct meetings with a frequency, and by convenient methods, to meet its goals. It will make decisions about its management, take actions, make membership decisions, determine when and how it will meet, determine how joint initiatives and correspondence will be managed, submit reports and establish positions as needed to support the partnership.

It will sponsor educational activities that bring together the member organizations and other organizations with similar purposes to develop consensus on a national patient safety agenda.

Support

Primary support for the effort of the NPSP is the collaboration of its member organizations. The Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, will serve as lead agency to coordinate the efforts.